

Minutes of the 2017 DCPB Divisional Business Meeting (New Orleans, Louisiana)

The business meeting of the Division of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry (DCPB) was held on 5 January 2017 at the Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. Division Chair Inna Sokolova called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. Inna introduced Chair-elect Kim Hammond, Program Officer Jason Podrabsky, Program Officer-Elect Wes Dowd, Secretary Robin Warne, Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee Representative Catherine Dayger, and Best Student Presentation Competition Organizer Valentina Di Santo.

Program Officer Jason Podrabsky and Program Officer-Elect Wes Dowd, who shared some of the duties for the New Orleans meeting, provided a report. DCPB was strongly represented at the meeting, which sponsored over 10% of the oral presentations at SICB in New Orleans. DCPB also sponsored or co-sponsored four symposia at the meeting, which included:

- Indirect effects of global change: From physiological and behavioral mechanisms to ecological consequences
- The ecology of exercise: Mechanisms underlying individual variation in movement behavior, activity, or performance
- Evolutionary impacts of seasonality
- With a little help from my friends: Microbial partners in integrative and comparative biology

A total of 11 symposia are planned for next year's 2018 SICB meeting in San Francisco, CA. The DCPB is sponsoring or co-sponsoring three of these symposia with \$2,000, including:

- Inside the black box: the mitochondrial basis of life-history variation and animal performance (Organizers: Karine Salin & Wendy Hood)
- Behavioral and physiological adaptation to urban environments (Organizers: Jenny Ouyang & Davide Dominoni)
- Understanding the evolution of endocrine system variation through large-scale comparative analyses (Organizers: Maren Vitousek, Jerry Husak & Michele Johnson)

Jason and Wes then discussed the challenges and frustrations of getting folks to turn in symposia proposals. First, it is difficult recruiting and motivating researchers to submit symposia proposals before the deadline in August. It is also challenging to develop a roster of diverse speakers including beginning investigators and underrepresented groups; noting that this is important because NSF will only fund such symposia. Previous program officer Jon Harrison and Chair-elect Kim Hammond also discussed the challenges, benefits, and consequences of NSF funding symposia, especially for beginning investigators; NSF symposia funding causes loss of 'beginning investigator' status but forges connections with NSF program officers. Last, Jason and Wes encouraged all attendees to the business meeting to recruit their peers to submit symposia proposals. During the discussion, it was also noted that society wide there has been a decline in the number of proposals submitted; in previous years proposals were turned down and, by contrast, now all proposals are accepted. There was no consensus for the factors driving this pattern. But Inna noted that

the symposia related publications published in ICB are critical to the financial health of SICB.

At 6:05 pm, members of the SICB Executive Committee, including Lou Burnett (President-Elect), Sherry Tamone (Past Program Officer) and Billy Swalla (Past President), and Brett Burk (Executive Director), joined the divisional business meeting and detailed the state of the Society as a whole. Future venues: 2019 in Tampa, 2020 in Austin, 2021 in Washington DC, 2022 TBD, and 2023 in Austin again. Planning provides excellent pricing to support the half of SICB attendees who are students. Second, SICB is developing a new open access journal aimed at high-quality organismal research. A search committee chaired by Peter Wainwright is searching for a founding editor in chief. The open-access price scale is being discussed.

At 6:13 pm, Inna discussed ICB considering new paper formats such as invited forums and review papers as a way to highlight or promote post-doc and beginning investigator research. This would be an award, but the mechanism by which this will work is still being considered. These would be for each division.

At 6:21 pm, Bill Zamer from NSF visited to provide an update. NSF is under a continuing resolution for funding from Congress until a new budget is passed. He reminded folks that REU supplements should be built into budgets at the time of submission for a full proposal. A new mechanism for funding tenured faculty is a Midcareer award (MCA) to support retooling; it is on par with funding for a sabbatical and will support technician time for training the PI on new methods, etc. New IOS core program NSF 17-508. New EDGE award, be on the lookout for it.

At 6:34 pm, the minutes of the 2016 DCPB business meeting in Portland, OR, were approved by assent of those members present.

At 6:37 pm, Valentina, the coordinator for the Best Student Presentation awards, gave an overview. This year 72 students presented their research for the Best Student Presentation competition. Forty judges volunteered to assess student presentations, and each student was evaluated by 2-3 judges. A discussion arose that there were too many presentations to judge, and the process was becoming burdensome. A proposal was then revisited from previous years to require folks submitting abstracts for the competition to have to submit an extra component. A discussion explored the pros and cons of this, including recognition that other divisions have taken the approach of programming oral and poster sessions specifically for best presentation competitions. And further, that this approach has proven successful. Several students who were present spoke in favor of requiring a cover letter or more detailed abstract submission and sessions devoted to the competitions. A vote was taken to submit a cover letter and detailed abstract, no opposed.

Catherine Dayger gave a brief update for the Student/Post-doctoral Affairs Committee workshops.

Stephen Secor mentioned that *Physiological and Biochemical Zoology* (PBZ) is in its 90th year, and that PBZ is doing well.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 pm by Inna Sokolova.

Respectfully submitted by
Robin Warne, DCPB Secretary